

MEETING OF THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy Dover, Delaware, on August 21, 2019 **with the following members in attendance:**

- Chairman Robert Garey
- William Vanderwende
- William H. Chip Narvel, Jr.
- Janice Truitt
- Colleen Davis
- Peter Martin

Absent:

- Raymond Bivens
- Robert Emerson
- L. Allen Messick, Jr.
- Theodore Bobola, Jr.
- Secretary Michael T. Scuse

The following Foundation staff members were in attendance:

- Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture
- Scott Blaier
- Milton Melendez
- Howard Mesick
- Kathi Spangler
- Carrie Wanstall

Others in attendance:

- F. Michael Parkowski, Parkowski, Guerke & Swayze
- Susan Steward, State Treasurer's Office

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:33 AM.

I. Preservation Districts:

A. Current Situation Report:

Scott Blaier informed the Board there are currently 1,262 approved and pending districts and expansions in the program encompassing 174,535 acres. There are 110 easements pending settlement for Round 23 and 13 easements pending settlement for Round 22 and 1 easement pending settlement for Round 21; once these are settled there will be 1,004 agricultural easements encompassing approximately 133,933 acres at an approximate cost of \$234,960,607. A total of 12

new applications for calendar year 2019 have been received, totaling 1,317 acres. The preserved lands for Farmland and Forestland Preservation (once Round 21, Round 22 and Round 23 easements settle) will total 1,018 easements encompassing 135,011 acres with an acquisition cost of approximately \$237 million.

B. Young Farmers Report

Austin Short advised the Board that there are no new changes or loan applications since the July meeting.

Austin Short stated that an article will soon run in *The Delmarva Farmer* to promote the continuous application period for the Young Farmers Loan program as recommended by Mr. Messick at the June 2019 meeting. Chip Narvel suggested contacting the *Lancaster Farming* publication about an article.

Chairman Robert Gary and Austin Short discussed adding information to the Delaware Department of Agriculture website to encourage landowners who are selling their farms to consider selling to a Young Farmer Loan Program applicant.

C. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval

- 1. The Woodlands Expansion of the Lin-Lo Farms, Inc District (S-19-07-182I) Contingent Sale** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Ms. Janice Truitt moved to accept for expansion and final approval of The Woodlands Expansion of the Lin-Lo Farms, Inc. District, seconded by Mr. William Chip Narvel, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**
- 2. Low Meadow Farm Expansion of the Nesneb District (K-19-07-249A) Contingent Sale** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Mr. William Chip Narvel, Jr. motioned to accept for expansion eligibility and final approval of the Low Meadow Farm Expansion of the Nesneb District, seconded by Ms. Janice Truitt. Motion unanimously approved.**
- 3. Tamburo Expansion of the Robert B. Fitzgerald District (S-19-07-028U) Contingent Sale** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Mr. William Vanderwende motioned to accept for expansion eligibility and final approval of the Tamburo Expansion of the Robert B. Fitzgerald District, seconded by Mr. Peter Martin. Motion unanimously approved.**
- 4. Carla P. Short Expansion of the Eli Short District (S-19-08-022G) Contingent Sale** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Ms. Janice Truitt motioned to accept for expansion eligibility and final approval of Carla P. Short Expansion of the Eli Short District, seconded by Ms. Colleen Davis. Motion unanimously approved.**

5. **Hidden Brook Expansion of the South West Corner District (S-19-02-061I)** after discussion and examination of the Application Report, **Mr. William Vanderwende motioned to accept for expansion eligibility and final approval of Hidden Brook Expansion of the South West Corner District, seconded by Mr. William Chip Narvel, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

II. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto:

Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Michael T. Scuse, waived the right of veto after the meeting for the above Districts and Expansions applications.

III. Opportunity for Public Comments:

No public comments were received

IV. Minutes:

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the July 17, 2019 meeting minutes that were emailed or mailed to Board Members prior to today's meeting. **Ms. Janice Truitt moved to approve the July 17, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. William Chip Narvel, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

V. Financial Highlights:

The **July 31, 2019** Financial Statements were presented by Howard Mesick, who reported that Funds Held by the State were \$410,737.52 and funds in the State Interest Bearing Account were \$364,400.40 for a total of \$775,137.92. Monthly income of \$510,007.19 was comprised of interest income of \$857.19, \$805,800.00 State of Delaware Grants and license plate income of \$350.00. July Ordinary Total Expenses were \$20,294.80, resulting in a July Net Income of \$489,712.39. Net Income for the year is \$489,712.39 (due to first month of fiscal year). **Mr. William Chip Narvel, Jr. motioned to accept the July 31, 2019 Financial Statements as presented, seconded by Ms. Janice Truitt. Motion unanimously approved.**

Howard Mesick distributed a letter dated June 5, 2019 from Belfint Lyons Shuman (BLS) Certified Public Accountants stating that they are engaged to audit the financial statements of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. Austin added that this was the same firm the audited the Foundation the previous two years. Howard Mesick states that BLS accountants may contact the Board of Trustees with questions.


VI. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

VIII. Adjournment

As there was no further business for the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation is **Wednesday September 18, 2019**, at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Garey
Chairman